

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

SECDEF WASHDC 0049

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 084729

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNSC, MARR, XF, IS, LE, FR, NO, CY, UK

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF USING TYRE AS UNIFIL ENTREPOT

REF: A) STATE 080987 (NOTAL)

B) USUN 01157

C) BEIRUT 1725 D) LONDON 04924

1. REF A STATES THAT UN SECRETARY GENERAL TOLD US THAT
UNIFIL WILL ESTABLISH ITS HEADQUARTERS IN TYRE AND AT
SOME POINT SUPPLIES TO THE FORCE MIGHT MOVE BY SEA
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THROUGH TYRE, THEREBY AGAIN PROVIDING A POLITICAL SIGNAL
WHICH ALL AGREE WOULD BE USEFUL, WHILE ALSO DENYING
PALESTINIAN REINFORCEMENTS OF MEN AND MATERIAL.
SIILASVUO APPARENTLY CONSIDERS SETTING UP HQ IN TYRE
AS PREMATURE AND UNREALISTIC AT THE MOMENT BECAUSE OF
SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS, AND WE CERTAINLY CANNOT DIS-
AGREE, WITH FRENCH UNITS REMAINING IN A POSITION EXPOSED

TO MAJOR PALESTINIAN FORCES IN TYRE, THE CAMPS AROUND TYRE, AND AT LITANI BRIDGE. WITHOUT PUSHING UN HARD AT THIS TIME, WE NONETHELESS WISH TO SHOW OUR INTEREST AND SUPPORT FOR CONCEPT, WHICH WE THINK FROM A POLITICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL POINT OF VIEW OFFERS MANY ATTRACTIVE ADVANTAGES TO UNIFIL AND TO LEBANESE GOVERNMENT.

2. FOR LONDON: WE WOULD BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN FCO REACTION TO PROPOSED LOGISTICS LINK BETWEEN UNIFIL AND UK BASES ON CYPRUS TO MOVE UN SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT FROM CYPRUS TO TYRE. WOULD UK BE PREPARED TO PROVIDE MILITARY VESSELS FOR THIS PURPOSE?

3. WE NOTE FROM REF B THAT FRENCH AND NORWEGIANS HAVE AGREED TO PROVIDE LOGISTICS FOR UNIFIL. THEIR VIEWS ON THE USE OF TYRE WILL BE PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT. SINCE FRENCH ARE ALREADY IN TYRE, THEY MAY HAVE BEST INFORMATION ON ITS PRESENT UTILITY AND POTENTIAL AS AN ENTREPOT FOR UNIFIL SUPPLIES. WE NOTE FROM REF C THAT FRENCH SUPPLY SHIP WAS DUE TO ARRIVE IN LEBANON ON MARCH 30. ASSUME DESTINATION WAS BEIRUT. CHRISTOPHER

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